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# 'Openness' may lift cloak on U.S. intelligence spending

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U.S. intelligence spending — a 200-year-old secret — could soon be revealed under President Carter's announced policy of "openness."

Adm. Stansfield Turner, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, told a Senate committee April 27 that the President would not object to the release by Congress of a "single, overall budget figure of the U.S. intelligence community."

The White House decision, which surprised some senators, was attributed by Admiral

Turner to the need to restore public confidence in the intelligence community.

"Some compromise," the Admiral explained, "is necessary between the risks of giving the enemy an unnecessary advantage over us and of protecting the basic openness of our society."

Intelligence spending, which includes funds to operate the CIA, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and others, is currently hidden amid the \$100 billion-plus budget of the Defense Department. Intelligence spending has been widely estimated. Some recent news reports, for instance, have ranged from \$6.2 billion to \$10 billion.

The White House decision agrees with the findings of a Senate select committee that studied the intelligence community last year.

Sen. Frank Church (D) of Idaho notes that after its study, the committee concluded that a single, overall figure should be disclosed to the public annually.

"We concluded that such a disclosure could be made without endangering national security or revealing sensitive programs. . . ."

Not everyone is enthusiastic about releasing the information. Under questioning, Admiral Turner admitted that his instincts are against releasing it, though he sees a larger national purpose that must be served.

Sen. Barry Goldwater (R) of Arizona was lukewarm to release.

"I think there are some things that the American people, including Congress, should not know," Mr. Goldwater said. "The more we spread the information around, the greater the risk."

Arguments in favor of disclosure of the budget totals include enhancing confidence in Congress and the White House, the need for public oversight, and the constitutional requirement (Article I, Section 9) that "a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time."